

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINS DANISH UN VOTES ON
SOUTH AFRICA TO FOLKETING

REF: COPENHAGEN 3918

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN EXPLAINED IN FOLKETING
DANISH VOTES IN UN ON SOUTH AFRICA. EXPLANATION WAS HISTORICAL
AND WAS BASED ON THE DANISH VIEW THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATION
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IS A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE. HE PRAISED US'S "ACTIVE" AFRI-

CAN POLICY AND PROMISED TO INFORM US (AMONG OTHERS) ABOUT HIS RECENT TRIP TO SUDAN AND ANGOLA. END SUMMARY.

1. ON NOVEMBER 16 IN PARLIAMENT, FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN, IN RESPONSE TO CONSERVATIVE PARTY QUESTIONS, EXPLAINED THE REASONS FOR THE DANISH VOTES ON SOUTH AFRICAN ISSUES IN UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY - VOTES WHICH HAVE AROUSED THE IRE OF SOME EC PARTNERS.

2. THE EXPLANATION WAS MOSTLY HISTORICAL AND WAS BASED ON THE DANISH PERCEPTION THAT THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA PRESENTS A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY JUSTIFYING IMPOSITION OF BINDING SANCTIONS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER VII OF THE UN CHARTER. AT NO TIME DID HE REFER TO THE CONDEMNATION OF STATES EXPLICITLY NAMED IN SOME RESOLUTIONS. ANDERSEN CITED NORDIC SOLIDARITY ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES IN THE PAST AND DENMARK'S ATTEMPTS TO PROMOTE A COMMON EC ATTITUDE TOWARDS SOUTHERN AFRICA THROUGH EC POLITICAL COOPERATION. HE STRESSED THE VALUE DENMARK ATTACHES TO THIS COOPERATION ON UN ISSUES AND, WHILE NOTING THAT DENMARK'S POSITION MUST REST ON DANISH PERCEPTIONS, ADDED THAT DIFFERENCES AMONG NINE ARE NOT USUAL AND THAT GENERALLY, COMMON POSITIONS ARE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE PROCESS OF CONCILIATION.

3. ANDERSEN THREW BOUQUETS TO THE U.S. REFERRING TO THE SECRETARY'S INITIATION OF DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY TO RESOLVE RHODESIAN QUESTION. HE SAID THE U.S. WAS NOW PURSUING AN ACTIVE AFRICAN POLICY - COMPLETELY IN LINE WITH THE POSITIVE INTEREST WHICH THE U.S. HAS TAKEN IN THE LIBERATION OF FORMER COLONIES.

4. ANDERSEN WELCOMED CURRENT CONTACTS HE HAD NOTICED DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO ANGOLA BETWEEN U.S. SENATORS AND ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES. (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY ANDERSEN WAS REFERRING TO CONGRESSMAN DIGGS, WHOM HE MET IN LUANDA, AND THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF SENATOR CLARK.) HE TOLD FOLKETING HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES REGARDING HIS RECENT VISIT TO SUDAN AND ANGOLA AND INTENDED TO INFORM THESE GOVERNMENTS OF HIS IMPRESSIONS.
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